

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Garry Knighton – Head of Waste and Contract Services

REPORT NO. WCS 10

DATE: 9th January 2005

TITLE:	Alternate weekly collection consultation and implementation
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Waste Collection Arrangements
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	16 th June 2005
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	PFP

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Ray Auger – Portfolio Holder for Healthy Environment
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Recycling
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	Minor
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	Unless exempt, this report is a public document and available from the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Report WCS7 to Cabinet on 08.08.05

1. SUMMARY

This report follows the recent consultation on the proposed introduction of an alternate weekly collection service throughout the district. Results from the consultation and recommendations on the possible future options are explained.

2. INTRODUCTION

In June 2005 the Healthy Environment Development and Scrutiny Panel created a Working Group to assess the future of recycling. This working group, chaired by Councillor Nick Craft, identified a number of factors that must be considered in taking recycling into the future:

- Challenging future recycling targets. These are likely to be increasing aiming to bring lower performing authorities in line with better performing neighbours, some of who are achieving nearly 50% recycling rate.
- New legislation requiring the Council to collect at least two recyclables from every household from the kerbside by 2010.
- Demands placed upon Lincolnshire County Council, and subsequently all district councils, to divert biodegradable waste from landfill.

As a result of these factors, and considering a number of options, the working group recommended that a Twin Bin system be introduced in South Kesteven.

Following the recommendation, it was recognised a consultation process was required to identify the need from the public.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To proceed with the introduction of the alternate weekly collection system for waste throughout the whole district council area.
- To implement the rollout of the system in a phased approach, beginning in September 2006, ending Summer 2007.

4. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Consultation

Following the recommendation from the Healthy Environment Development and Scrutiny Panel, and its working group, it was agreed that changes were necessary in the future of recycling to achieve any future targets and fulfil any legal duties. However, it is important that residents within the district have an opportunity to comment on this integral service, and as such a period of consultation was conducted.

The consultation was carried out through a variety of media:

- a. A comprehensive article and questionnaire in *sktoday*
- b. Press releases, with one newspaper running a questionnaire
- c. Presentations to all Local Area Assemblies
- d. Presentations to community groups
- e. Detailed correspondence with relevant community groups

sktoday

A detailed article was written in the October issue of the magazine, with a questionnaire enclosed. Copies of both are enclosed as Appendix A1 and A2.

The article raised a lot of questions with readers and there was a good response to the questionnaire. A total of 2,160 responses were received despite a number of complaints of lack of delivery.

The results have been analysed and the following table highlights the key results:

Percentage of respondents preferring a wheeled bin for refuse collection	72.7%
Percentage of respondents preferring black sacks for refuse collection	27.3%
Main reason for preferring wheeled bins	Easy to move
Percentage of respondents preferring a wheeled bin for recycling collection	69.3%
Percentage of respondents preferring a box for recycling collection	30.7%
Main reason for preferring wheeled bins	Easy to move

The results support the thoughts of officers in Waste and Contract Services, where a number of calls are made, regularly enquiring about wheeled bins and increased recycling.

Though there is still a demand for black sacks and boxes for recycling, this is perhaps swayed by those areas which we are already aware will be exempt. All publicity explained that inclusion of the postcode on the questionnaire was important to help identify areas where wheeled bins would cause a problem, therefore the results may have been influenced by people's worries about the Council introducing a blanket scheme, and ignoring individual needs.

Press Releases, and 'unofficial' surveys

The Grantham Journal and the Stamford Mercury ran a brief survey in the local newspapers in the summer, when reports from the working group were discussed by the DSP. These results also indicated a preference to wheeled bins, rather than maintaining the current system.

Local Area Assemblies

These presentations were very popular, and a large number of responses resulted from them, largely from community groups. The presentations allowed questions to be answered directly on the possible changes and a detailed explanations to the reasons were given.

Community Groups and Members of the Public

As with any possible change, there are supporters and objectors, and a large amount of correspondence was exchanged with regards to this subject.

Most letters received expressed concerns about the impact on their lifestyle and health, including worries about storing waste for longer and moving wheeled bins. All anxieties were addressed individually, and few went on to express further problems.

Outcomes

It is evident from the feedback received that there are areas where wheeled bins would be unsuitable, however, it has always been a recognised factor that some properties would be exempt from this collection method. A Policy on Exempt Properties would be required should this method be selected.

At large though, the residents of South Kesteven would like to see wheeled bins introduced for both refuse and recycling collections.

Implementation

Based on the results above, two programmes of implementation have been written. These are attached as Appendix B1 and B2.

The 'Big Bang' approach, though possible, would be the least effective and successful. There are a number of reasons why this approach would perhaps fail:

- a. It is estimated that distribution of bins would take approximately 6 months, and therefore some households would start using their bins long before collections are due to commence. This situation occurred with the introduction of the green waste scheme.
- b. An integral part of introducing an alternate weekly collection scheme is **publicity**. It is recommended by all communication specialists to run publicity three weeks and one week before implementation. A lack of resources would make this impossible to cover the whole 365 square miles on this time frame.

Therefore, a phased-in approach is recommended, implementing the scheme round by round. Advantages of this method of implementation are:

- a. Bins are delivered no more than 4 weeks prior to collections starting. Residents will receive the bin and, even if used, will not cause a large problem.
- b. Problems and experiences can help to avoid the same issue on the next phase. All new schemes require some evaluation period and refinement, which can be done easily at the end of each phase.
- c. Vehicles will be adapted with bin lifts as required, and therefore there will not be a large period of time where bags are still being collected by converted freighters. Though it is possible to work with the bin lift fitted, it causes unnecessary strain on the collection staff.
- d. Publicity can be targeted to specific areas. Whole villages can be canvassed with a road show, and door stepping can be done in the town areas. This is the most successful way of promoting this scheme.

Though the implementation would not be complete until June 2007, the scheme would be based on a more solid foundation, with more success, less complaints and higher recycling rates.

5. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

The cabinet would need to ensure sufficient resources are included within its Revenue and Capital Programmes to carry out the recommendations.

6. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

No comment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Various options were considered by the working group of the Healthy Environment Development and Scrutiny Panel, of which the move at an alternate weekly collection scheme with two wheeled bins seems the most appropriate for South Kesteven District Council. This is supported by the consultation with the public and it is possible to implement this scheme by Summer 2007.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

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